Fire in IOC oil depots

751. SHRI DATTA MEGHE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a fire broke out in the oil depots of the Indian Oil Corporation at Rajbandh near Durgapur on 3rd June, 2004 and at Baitalpur near Deoria on 30th June, 2004;

(b) if of, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(c) the loss of life and property suffered as a result of these fires; and

(d) the remedial measures, if any, taken by Government to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI MANI SHANKAR AIYAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Fire broke out in the oil depots of Indian Oil Corporation Limited at Rajbandh near Durgapur on 3rd June, 2004 and at Baitalpur near Deoria on 30th June, 2004. Fire at Rajbandh was due to lightening strike. The cause of fire at Baitalpur is being investigated.

(c) At Rajbandh, there was no loss of human life or injury due to the said fire, 360 Kilo Litre (KL) of petrol was lost and the tank in which it was stored has been damaged. At Baitalpur, one officer, who received severe burn injury, expired. Around 41 KL petrol and 9 KL kerosene was lost. This apart, the replacement cost of the tank is estimated around Rs. 20 lacs.

(d) The fire was extinguished at both places by utilizing in-house fire fighting facilities which were fully operational for combating and controlling the fire. Disaster Management Plan was also activated for Mutual Aid. Fire fighting facilities at Rajbandh depot is being upgraded. Remedial action for Baitalpur depot will be taken once investigation into the fire incident is complete.

Establishment of Global Oil Company

†752. SHRIMATI MAYA SINGH: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Oil Corporation is considering tc set up a Global Oil Company for exploring oil in foreign countries to enter the global market;

(b) if so, the modalities being considered for this; and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.